

**CYPHA TARSALIS LUZE (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE)  
NEW TO BRITAIN**

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THE ADDITION to the British List of three species of *Cypha* (*Hypocyphtus*) during the 1960s – *C. imitator* Luze (Kevan, 1962); *C. nitida* (Palm) (Johnson, 1967) and *C. hanseni* (Palm) (Johnson, 1968), prompted me to examine material from most of the major British collections over the next decade or so. In the course of this study I found many specimens to be misidentified, including two from the British collections in the Natural History Museum, collected by G.C. Champion on St. Mary's, Scilly Islands, and identified by him as *C. laeviuscula* (Man.). Fortunately both were males. Dissection revealed them both to possess a heavily built aedeagus totally unlike the slim delicate organ of that species. They were clearly identifiable as *C. tarsalis* Luze (Palm, 1966). Later comparison with a Norwegian male from the Manchester University Museum, collected by Andreas Strand at Brønnøy, Asker, confirmed this determination.

Apart from the locality, Champion's carded specimens carry no other data although, from his publications, it appears that his only visit to the Scilly Islands was from 6th to 15th July 1897 (Champion, 1897). However, he does not include *C. laeviusculus* in the list of species recorded during that visit and Blair (1931), in summarising Scilly Island Coleoptera records, only credits Champion with *C. longicornis* (Payk.) from St. Mary's. The only published record of *C. laeviuscula* from the Scilly Islands is that of Joy & Tomlin (1912) who recorded it from Tresco in June 1912. I have recently been able to examine all the specimens of *C. laeviuscula* from the J.R. le B. Tomlin collection in the National Museum of Wales, amongst which I found a single specimen labelled Tresco. Upon dissection this also proved to be a male *C. tarsalis*, thus confirming this species from both main Scilly Islands. As a consequence, until such time as a specimen of *C. laeviuscula* from a Scilly locality is found in some other collection, this species should be deleted from the Scilly Island beetle fauna.

A number of species of *Cypha* can only be identified with certainty by the use of male characters, principally the structure of the aedeagus. The aedeagus of one of Champion's *C. tarsalis* from the Scilly Islands is depicted in figure 1. Among the known British fauna only the smaller *C. ovulum* Heer has an aedeagus at all similar in shape, but it lacks the bifurcate ventral process projecting forward from the basal capsule. Care must be taken when dissecting out the aedeagus as the two arms of this process may become detached during separation of the parameres.

The very common *C. longicornis*, should be readily identifiable to most coleopterists by its long, narrow, antennae with poorly differentiated club.

Of the three remaining British species of *Cypha* with dark antennae and legs, *C. ovulum* can be separated on its small size, being consistently less than 1mm in length. In *C. imitator* the elytra are shiny with the fine punctures widely spaced and any microsculpture present not forming meshes. *C. laeviusculus* and *C. tarsalis* should separate off together as having their elytra only weakly shining with fine close puncturation, between which there is a distinct microsculpture forming a reticulated network of meshes. These two species can be separated as follows (based on Lohse, 1974):-

**tarsalis** Luze. 1 – 1.4mm, blackish-brown, often with sides of pronotum and hind body paler. Elytra slightly shorter than pronotum, with strong and moderately thick rasp-like puncturation and a ground sculpture of shagreened meshes. Segment 1 of hind tarsus as long as rest together and segment 1 of front tarsus strongly dilated in male.

**laeviusculus** Mannh. 0.9 – 1.1mm, black, elytra often brown, sides of pronotum and abdomen paler. Elytra not shorter than pronotum, with puncturation fine and moderately thick, but not rasp-like, and microsculpture of simple rhomboid meshes. Segment 1 of hind tarsus shorter than rest together.

*NB* – The apex of the aedeagus of the three British specimens is less sharply pointed than in that figured by Palm (1966) and Lohse (1974).

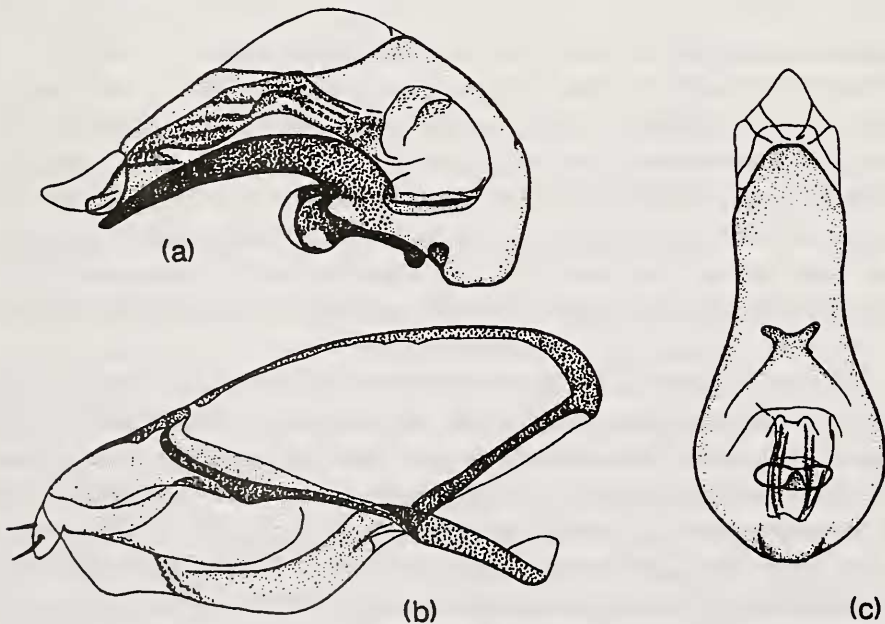


Fig. 1. *Cypha tarsalis* Luze (Col.: Staphylinidae):

(a) aedeagus side view (b) paramere side view (c) aedeagus ventral view.

*Cypha tarsalis* is widely distributed in middle and south Europe and southern Scandinavia, and Horion (1967) records it from forest and meadow soils under leaves, moss and decaying vegetable matter, and in humus (without *Sphagnum*) in birch moorland. He also notes that in the north it appears to be associated with coastal regions. Although the Scilly Island localities are clearly maritime I have never found further specimens in many years of intensive collecting around the coast of mainland Scotland, Orkney and the Hebrides. In contrast *C. laeviusculus* appears to be common in Scotland and northern England where it is distributed from the pine forests of Speyside to coastal dunes on Tiree.

### Acknowledgements

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### A second Kent record of *Coleophora frischella* L. (Lep.: Coleophoridae)

General sweeping of clover situated adjacent to the sea near Herne Bay on 11th August 1984 produced several coleophorids which included a single, fresh *Coleophora frischella* as well as several *C. deauratella* L. & Z. and *C. mayrella* Hb. (= *spissicornis* Haw.). Mr J.M. Chalmers-Hunt informed me at the time that as far as he was aware there was only one other previous record from Kent based upon a single male in the J.F. Stephens and H.T. Stainton collection (In the Natural History Museum, London) from 20th June 1850, at Lewisham.

I also collected seedheads of *Trifolium repens* on 15th September but only succeeded in breeding a single *mayrella*.— N.F. HEAL, 44 Blenheim Avenue, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NW.